

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman :

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

Published by the Commission on Public Relations

Editors:

Kaname Tsukahara

of the National Christian Council of Japan

CABLE CODE : JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS : CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates : Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

p. 105

June 1, 1957

In These Pages

Church Is A "Story of Heaven".	1	JCWS Given Hokkaido Contribution	5
Moderator Mito Centennial Chairman	2	Report From Delegation to Red China	5
500 Delegates Expected to World		Nine Families of White Russians	
Sunday School Convention	2	in Japan from Red China	6
Mr. Takuo Matsumoto Welcomed at a		Non-Assigned Ministers	6
Reception	3	International Choir of 1,000 to	
Occupational Evangelism Program	3	to be organized	7
Hydrogen Bombs will Eventually Be		Rev. Kishi is Lutheran Chairman	7
Stopped	4	Hino Rural Center Moved	7
Methodist Missionary From India		Mother's Day Observed in Japan	7
Visiting Japan	4	Japan Represented Abroad	8
Institute of Religions at Chicago		New York Riverside Church Pastor	
Invites Asian Leaders	4	Visits Japan	8

CHURCH IS A "STUDY OF HEAVEN" ACCORDING TO SURVEY OF PROF. ISOMURA

In preparation for the Centennial, the Committee on Social Relations of the National Christian Council in Japan is making an investigation into the problem of poverty in Japan at the request of the World Council of Churches.

Prof. Eiichi Isomura of Tokyo Metropolitan University conducted a recent survey into 100 households on poverty and religious consciousness which revealed some interesting facts. The survey showed that established religious bodies are not approaching low income people. On the other hand, Nichiren Shoshu (Soka Gakukai) and Tenrikyo (Buddhist sects) are making contacts with these people. The people surveyed describe a Christian church as a "story of heaven" which is hardly connected with themselves. Sermons at churches are not relative to the daily living structure of low income people. This also shows that, except for some new religious sects, no religious attempts have been made toward this class.

V. TAKESHI MUTO ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED PROTESTANT CENTENNIAL MOVEMENT COMMITTEE OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

With Japan's Protestant Centennial in 1959, the Japan National Christian Council which has been working out the United campaign of different denomination with a budget of over two million Yen for this fiscal year, in a combined committee meeting held recently, elected Rev. Muto of the Kyodan to be chairman of the Centennial Movement Committee. Members of this Central committee of the Centennial Movement are:

Takeshi Muto	(Moderator of the Kyodan)	Chairman
Yunenori Takase	(Episcopal Church Bishop)	Vice-chairman
Yunen Kishi	(Moderator of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church)	" "
Yoshi Otani	(Southern Baptist Federation)	Secretary
Yasu Omura	(Chairman of Evangelism of Kyodan)	Chief of Publicity Section
Yonetaro Miyakoda	(Gen. Sec'y of Japan Bible Society)	Chief of Memorial Work
Yasuko Takegami	(W.C.T.U.)	Chief of Life Situation Activities Section
Yozo Mikumo	(Layman of the Kyodan)	Chief of Financial Section

Date and time of the Memorial Service was temporarily decided for November 3, 1959, as the center. In addition there will be lecture meetings, a Laymen's National Rally, Christian Religious Music Concerts, movies, Drama, Exhibition of Christian Cultural Assets, and each subcommittee is to meet in the near future to draw a definite plan for each group. The following projects have already been decided; Lacour evangelism for the months of August and September (1957) and in September from 4th to 6th there will be the whole Nation Evangelism Conference at Nagasaki-Sanso, and in October a nation-wide evangelistic campaign with Dr. Donald Soper as the preacher, all under the Evangelism Section. Under the Section of Memorial Work Books, the "Collection of History on Japan Christianity", "The Steps of Christianity in Japan for the Past One Hundred Years" and "Illustrated Centennial History of the Christian Mission in Japan" are already under way. Projects for the Life Situation Activities Section include a Study of Relationships between Churches and local communities and their service activities; the relationship between churches, factories and other working places; a penetration to labor unions and managers' organizations; and a study of how to improve the living conditions of the people.

500 DELEGATES EXPECTED TO WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION NEXT YEAR IN JAPAN

According to most recent estimates, 5500 delegates are expected to participate in the World Sunday School Convention here next summer.

This includes 3000 from Japan, and another 2500 representatives from other countries.

69 countries are expected to send delegates. No word has yet been received as to whether or not Russian and Red China will participate officially. Japan will shoulder travel and living expenses for delegates while in Japan from Africa, and Southeast Asian countries.

DR. TAKUO MATSUMOTO WELCOMED AT A RECEPTION SAYS, "THE ENGLISH PAY
LITTLE ATTENTION TO JAPAN"

Dr. Takuo Matsumoto, professor at Aoyama Gakuin just recently back from a year's study in England, says, "There are voices in England in opposition to hydrogen bomb experiments, in fact many Christian students oppose them. Among others, the Rev. Donald Soper who is to arrive in Japan this fall, headed a street demonstration of 2,000 people in protest against the dispatch of U.N. soldiers to the Suez Canal zone with a firm belief in the social responsibilities of presentday Christianity. Some four hundred Japanese are now residing in England, but generally speaking, little attention is paid to Japan."

OCCUPATIONAL EVANGELISM PROGRAM IN JAPAN "FINEST IN THE ORIENT",
SAYS DR. MARSHALL SCOTT

Dr. Marshall Scott, Professor at McCormic Theological Seminary, and Director of the Industrial Study Program of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., speaking at the farewell luncheon May 16 in Tokyo, attended by some 20 Leaders of the Occupational Evangelism Program of the United Church of Christ in Japan, including Rev. Yoshimi Matsumoto, Rev. Iwao Niwa, Rev. Ryukichi Yoshida, Rev. Isamu Omura and others, referred to the work of Dr. Henry Jones and the Program of Occupational Evangelism in Japan as "the finest that he has seen in the Orient".

Dr. Scott has been in Japan 3 months, touring industrial centers throughout the country where the United Church is conducting programs to reach the workers. He lived in factory dormitories, farm houses, Japanese inns, and spoke to hundreds of groups.

In expressing his thanks to the Committee for the privilege accorded him of visiting Japan, he said that he hoped that more visitors from abroad coming to Japan might be sent around the country to "out of the way areas" as he had been. He added that he was very much impressed by the kindness of the Japanese and feels "a deep emotional concern for the many Pastors who are striving on faith fully, often with very little income and sometimes with very poor equipment".

He stressed that he believed the future prospects for the Church in Japan are good, as one looks at the young men of vision in the Seminaries.

In closing he said, "my life is now interwoven with yours, and I hope to come back again, with my family".

Dr. Henry Jones, who has been in Japan for the past 3 years, helping to develop the program of Occupational Evangelism here, at the same luncheon paid tribute to the vision of the Japanese Committee in inviting Dr. Scott here, and expressed his gratitude for Dr. Scott's assistance also in the Philippines, where he spent a week at the first Occupational Evangelism Conference there, and expressed also his appreciation for the visit of the Korean Occupational Evangelism Representative, Robert Urquart (brother of Miss Betty Urquart, Missionary to Japan, currently on furlough in the U.S.A.), who came over to Japan for 10 days to lend assistance during Dr. Scott's visit.

HYDROGEN BOMBS WILL EVENTUALLY BE STOPPED", SAYS ENVOY MATSUSHITA

The NCC and Kyodan in a joint welcome home party on May 10 for Dr. Matsushita, Japan's envoy to Britain to present Japan's request for suspension of the Christmas Island H-bomb tests, with about 70 Christian Leaders present, heard Dr. Matsushita say that "it is very difficult to establish scientifically that there is or is not harm from radiation - in a sense it will take 100 or 200 years to establish this conclusively. Of utmost importance is that we urge our Japanese Scientists and the Scientists of the world to join in cooperative and thoroughgoing studies of the harm connected with nuclear explosions. Scientific facts, not emotion, is basic in the problem". Dr. T. Matsumoto, Professor of Aoyama Gakuin, just back from a year in England, "felt that Dr. Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury did not fully support the Japan NCC resolution. Free Churches in England, on the other hand, unanimously opposed the H-bomb tests, but there was no concerted movement in the churches". Dr. Matsushita's conclusion was that although England is not likely to cancel the Christmas Island tests, eventually the testing of thermo-nuclear weapons will be stopped". Speaking before the Tokyo Christian Laymen's Association held at the Ginza Church in Tokyo, Dr. Matsushita said "I did not expect the U.K. to suspend the slated thermonuclear explosions at Christmas Island. I knew from the start that the Government of England would not call off its plan to carry out A-H bomb tests in the Christmas Island area. The object of my visit to that country was to stir world-wide public opinion in England as well as in any other country to the possible dangers of thermonuclear experiments". He went on to say in an impressive tone in reference to the present international situation that "It is wrong for Christians to think that sentimental prayers alone can settle the question when one of the world blocs believes in "communization" of the entire world whereas the other one is conducting nuclear experiments as a defensive mission of the countries built by God".

METHODIST MISSIONARY FROM INDIA VISITING JAPAN

Rev. Kazuhiko Kawata, missionary from the Methodist Church in America is visiting Japan for a month on his way to the States for furlough. He has been working in the field of technical evangelism in India for the past six years, and is stopping in Japan on his way home for furlough to investigate the possibility of securing a Christian Japanese Agricultural Technician to assist with the Mission in India.

INSTITUTE OF RELIGIONS AT CHICAGO UNIVERSITY PLANNING EXCHANGE OF ASIAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS

The Institute of Religions at the University of Chicago is planning an exchange of religious leaders between the U.S. and Asia. This will be realized with the \$140,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for the study of "various religions". Dr. R. Pierce Beaver of the Institute is now visiting Indonesia to invite specialists of Asian religions to the Chicago University. The University will also send Dr. Mitsuo Kitagawa, assistant professor of History of Religions to Japan en route to two years' research in Asia and Europe next year.

The University is also requesting three experts on Buddhism.

YCWS RECEIVES CONTRIBUTION FROM HOKKAIDO

A letter arrived at the Japan Church World Service office at the Christian Center on the Ginza last Friday morning with an enclosure of \$15,000 in cash. Signed by Messrs. Y. Amaha, representative of the townsmen of Setana-machi, Hokkaido and M. Nakano, president of the council on social welfare in the same town, the letter stated that the money was being sent in appreciation of the kindnesses rendered them during the desperation period in Hokkaido last year.

REPORT FROM DELEGATION TO RED CHINA-IS THERE REALLY FREEDOM OF RELIGION?

When the 15 Christian delegates to churches in Red China returned to Japan on May 23 after a month there, some 300 people gathered at the Tokyo YWCA the following day to hear their report. Rev. Junichi Asano, head of the delegation said, "we were very cordially treated everywhere we went in China. I heard, however, that in Sainan, when we were invited to the house of the Superintendent of the Three Self-Love Movement, a maid asked her employer not to invite the Japanese to his house, by crying. I was told that this was because her 3 children had been killed by the Japanese Army during World War II. So we know there were memories of misery behind their warm welcome, and we could not be overjoyed.

The object of our visit to Red China was to restore the once lost relations between the churches of the two countries and to share responsibility for Asian evangelism and world peace.

During the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Three Self-Love Movement on May 15, Superintendent Wu sent a message to us saying that Japanese and Chinese Christians should be united in brotherhood, that they endorse Japan's drive against hydrogen and atom bombs, and that goodwill between the churches of both countries should be encouraged, by trusting in the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Asano had some reservations as to the relationship of the Christian churches with the Chinese Government. He doubted that churches are financially independent, and expressed fear that the principle of separation of church and state is in danger in China. He noticed a complete lack of any gratitude on the part of Chinese Christians for the help they have received from Mission Boards in the past.

The delegation was impressed by the cleanliness they found in China, the honesty of the people, and the interest of the people in the political affairs of the nation. Rev. Asano spoke of his surprise at the improved position of women, to the extent that Madam Wu Ling Pang is now a Governor of a district in China.

Mentioned as most impressive by Rev. Asano is that they have so many colleges in China, all free of tuition. There is a great drive toward education for the masses.

One delegate said that the Chinese Christians seem to be really awake to the mission and message that Christianity is life-giving to all good things, and Christian institutions are cooperating and working together with the churches almost to the point of envy.

As to the way to achieve world peace, one delegate reported, "I am afraid they have a quite different opinion, and harbor a lot of misunderstanding about a certain nation's policies, and the ideas other nations have about world peace. But as for peace itself, they are very zealous to achieve it". "On a visit to the Hanchow YWCA, the Secretary did everything possible for us, but when we asked her frankly what was the damage during the Japanese Occupation", reported one delegate, "she covered her face and cried. When we apologized for our ill conduct, she replied 'You are not military. You are Christians and we have no grudge against the Christians of Japan. We have to be friends in Christ.'"

The report ended on this note: "We have to try to understand each other's weaknesses, and hand in hand, with a deep sympathy and love for mankind and as children of God in Christ, in spiritual matters and in material matters, we must help each other to bring about real self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating Christian movements in both countries.

When I saw many old people in the churches I realized the good work that had been done among these people, and appreciated deeply how they have kept their faith through many hard and trying situations, and felt that there should be more appreciation for the work rendered for many years in China by the missionaries. But at the same time it gave me much hope when I saw in Shanghai and elsewhere, lots of young people in the churches, and although, theologically, they have not advanced much, they have a large number of good, earnest Christians everywhere".

THE FAMILIES OF WHITE RUSSIANS IN JAPAN FROM RED CHINA

Nineteen refugees from Red China are in Japan through the good offices of Japan Church World Service. Another twenty-two are expected from Hong Kong shortly. The Dept. of Service for Refugees of the WCC is trying hard to find countries to help them and for the time being, the JCWS is rendering assistance in their entry into Japan at the guarantee of Bishop Iriney (hon.) of the Greek Orthodox Church in Japan. Relief goods such as rice, milk and butter are being given them. Their only income is the \$50 they get each month from sponsors in America. The U.S. Refugee Law expired at the end of last year, and these refugees are unable to go to the States. Now they are hoping for a possible re-enactment of the law.

NON-ASSIGNED' MINISTERS AND THE SACRAMENTS

Not all Seminary graduates are serving Churches. 201 ordained men and 288 licensed graduates of the Kyodan are engaged in teaching, business, or in work for other churches. The question of administration of the Sacraments by these non-assigned clergymen is under current study by the Kyodan's Standing Executive Committee and the Committee on Faith and Order.

INTERNATIONAL CHOIR OF 1,000 TO BE ORGANIZED FOR WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION NEXT SUMMER

According to the communication received by the Preparatory Office for the World Convention on Christian Education, one thousand volunteers from among the representatives from 69 nations participating in the international conference are slated to organize an international choir to render special music each night while this conference is going on at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium Aug. 6-13 next year.

REV. S. KISHI RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S GENERAL MEETING

The 34th General Assembly of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church was held May 7-9 with some 150 delegates present. Rev. Sennen Kishi was re-elected chairman of the General Assembly, and Rev. Rokuro Yamanouchi was elected vice-chairman.

After the report on the development of the pending merger of the eleven Lutheran Churches in Japan, a committee of five to draft the regulation for the amalgamated Church was appointed.

HINO RURAL CENTER MOVED TO TSURUKAWA

The Hino Center, relocated at Tsurukawa, will hold inauguration ceremonies at 10 A.M. May 30.

The late Rev. Stone, lost in the tragic Toya-maru ferry accident in Hokkaido, it will be recalled, was for a long time Director of this Christian Rural Service and Training Center of the Kyodan at Hino.

The move resulted from the establishment of a huge housing area at the former site. Now, on a much larger land area, the Center will expand with a new dining hall, cattle barns, and a nursery school planned, in addition to the regular dormitories and classrooms. Prospective Rural Pastors and laymen study under a 3 year course - spending forenoons in class, and afternoons on the farm, tilling the soil, milking the cows, raising hogs and chickens. The present student body of 55 includes 2 women.

Dr. E. M. Clarke, former Director, left last year for retirement, and Rev. Takeo Katsube, Pastor of Aoyama Gakuin Church has been named Director beginning in April.

MOTHER'S DAY OBSERVED IN JAPAN

Hardly recognized outside Christian circles, Mother's Day saw red and white carnations in abundance however, at most churches, and a bouquet presented to the Empress by the Christian Federation of Childhood Education. A "Mother's Day Convention" for Mothers from Christian Kindergartens and Nurseries in the Tokyo Area brought together some 200 Mothers who heard Mrs. Haruko Kagawa speak on "Religious Life and Women in the Home".

JAPAN REPRESENTED ABROAD

Dr. Darley Downs has been named United Church of Christ delegate to the World Council's Central Committee meeting at Yale University in August.

Mr. Winn Long, North American YMCA Cooperative Sec'y in Japan, and Mr. Nagai, General Sec'y of the National YMCA in Japan will attend the YMCA World Convention in Katsel, West Germany, July 4-12. This will be the first meeting of the World Body in Germany since 1909.

Mr. Soichi Saito, former General Sec'y of the Japan National YMCA, well known at home and abroad as a Leader in Youth work in Japan, has been invited to teach at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. His subjects will be 1) Christian influence on Japanese culture, 2) Youth Movements in Japan, and 3) development of the YMCA in Japan. At the age of 70 Mr. Saito has recently attended the United Nations General Assembly as an unofficial delegate from Japan.

Accompanied by his wife, he will leave for the U.S.A. in August.

NEW YORK RIVERSIDE CHURCH PASTOR VISITS JAPAN

As a guest of the Japan Committee for Intellectual Exchange, Dr. Robert McCracken, Pastor since 1946 of the famous Riverside Church in New York City, has just completed a month in Japan to lecture, meet Buddhist and Shinto Leaders and visit points of historical and cultural interests.

The host Committee was born from the efforts of John D. Rockefeller II who came to Japan in 1951 to encourage the interchange of intellectual and cultural leaders of both nations with the purpose of deepening understanding and strengthening friendship between the two.

Dr. McCracken, 56, succeeded Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick 10 years ago at the famous New York Church, was at one time chairman of the Baptist Church in the U.S., and a representative to the World Council of Churches. He is well known on the radio and television networks in America.

It will be recalled that Dr. Shigeto Tsuru, Professor at Hitotsubashi University in Japan, and who was recently summoned to testify before a U.S. Congressional Committee, is currently in the United States as a Guest Professor at Harvard under this same Exchange program.

At his farewell reception in Tokyo the other day Dr. McCracken spoke of the apparent religious revival which is taking place in the United States, but said at the same time that there are acute social problems, such as delinquency, for example, and lack of any Christian strategy to complement the strong will-for-peace which is so prevalent.

In reply to a question about the Billy Graham campaign, he said that Riverside Church is cooperating in the New York Crusade. He illustrated the problem that sometimes exists in achieving this cooperation by contrasting Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr's critical attitude with that of Dr. Van Dusen, President of Union Theological Seminary in New York, who was greatly influenced in his youth by Bill Sunday.

Dr. McCracken has been spending the month in Japan under the auspices of the Japan Committee for Intellectual Interchange and the International House of Japan.

